

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02712 230828Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5528
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, KU, JO, SA, SU, XF
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

SUMMARY: JORDANIAN COURT CHIEF SHARAF MARCH 22 GAVE
ACCOUNT OF HIS RECENT VISITS TO SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND
KUWAIT. HE PUT SLIGHTLY OPTIMISTIC CAST TO REACTIONS TO
KING HUSSEIN'S CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT, SAYING ALL PARTIES
CONTACTED RECOGNIZE NEED IN PRINCIPLE FOR ARAB UNITY IN
FACE OF CURRENT MIDEAST SITUATION. SYRIA HOWEVER WISHES
FOR SADAT, AS PRECONDITION, TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS INITIATIVE
HAS FAILED. SYRIA IS UNHAPPY WITH EVEN QUALIFIED JORDANIAN
SUPPORT FOR SADAT INITIATIVE. SAUDI ARABIA, LIKE
JORDAN, WISHES TO PREVENT EGYPTIAN ISOLATION IN ARAB
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WORLD AND KEEP UP MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE DESPITE
ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION. SHARAF
ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, NO DATE SET FOR SUMMIT AND IT
"WILL NOT HAPPEN TOMORROW." END SUMMARY.

1. SHARAF SAID HE MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD FOR
FOUR HOURS AND ALSO WITH MONMIN KHADDAM ON RECENT VISIT

TO SYRIA. MEETINGS HAD GONE REASONABLY WELL, ALTHOUGH SYRIANS WERE OBVIOUSLY PREOCCUPIED WITH SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON AND EXTREMELY BITTER WITH PLO (TO SAY NOTHING TO ISRAEL) GETTING SITUATION INTO SUCH A MESS. ASAD'S ACCEPTANCE OF KING HUSSEIN'S CALL FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT WAS HEAVILY CONDITIONED THAT SADAT SHOULD FIRST DECLARE HIS INITIATIVE A FAILURE. ASAD DID NOT WANT TO PROVIDE ARAB SUMMIT "COVER" FOR EGYPT-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. SHARAF ACKNOWLEDGED HOWEVER THAT RECENT "RESISTANCE FRONT" CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE NEGATIVE ON SUMMIT WITH EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION THAN ABOVE FORMULATION.

2. SHARAF SAID ASAD TOOK JORDAN TO TASK FOR NOT DENOUNCING SADAT INITIATIVE. SHARAF REPLIED JORDAN WISHED TO AVOID ISOLATING SADAT IN ARAB WORLD AND THEREBY INCREASING TEMPTATION FOR SEEKING SEPARATE AGREEMENT. SADAT'S ACTIONS TO DATE ALL SUPPORT IDEA OF COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT AND THIS DESERVES ARAB SUPPORT.

3. IN SAUDI ARABIA SHARAF SAW CROWN PRINCE FAHD. (KING KHALID WAS AWAY ON A DESERT TRIP NEAR KUWAIT.) SHARAF SAID FAHD WAS SYMPATHETIC TO GENERAL NEED FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT TO PULL ARABS TOGETHER. HE TOO WISHES TO PREVENT EGYPTIAN ISOLATION AND TO TRY TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. KUWAITI RESPONSE WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY "RESERVED"
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BUT NOT NEGATIVE.

4. SHARAF SAID RESULTS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE OF JORDAN'S CANVASSING OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS' INTEREST IN A MEETING TO PULL ARAB POSITIONS TOGETHER. AMER KHAMMASH HAD RECEIVED SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE IN OMAN, BAHRAIN, ABU DHABI AND DOHA. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IBRAHIM NOT YET BACK FROM VISITS TO EGYPT AND NORTH AFRICA, BUT SHARAF UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK HAD BEEN SYMPATHETIC. EVEN LIBYA DID NOT RULE OUT THE IDEA OF A SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH THEY SPECIFY IT SHOULD BE IN TRIPOLI.

5. COMMENT: SHARAF IS OBVIOUSLY PUTTING MOST OPTIMISTIC CAST ON RESPONSE TO KING HUSSEIN'S APPEAL FOR A SUMMIT, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING HE DOES NOT EXPECT SUMMIT TO OCCUR "TOMORROW OR EVEN NEXT WEEK." SHARAF BELIEVES SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION AND DANGER OF LOSING PEACE MOMENTUM ARE UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DANGERS BY ARAB MODERATES AND THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR ARABS TO COLLECTIVELY COME TO GRIPS WITH THE CURRENT ISSUES.
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

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